



# RockvilleReports

JANUARY 2021 • VOL. 67 #1



SEE PAGE 3 FOR  
SNOW INFO

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## Rockville's Virtual MLK Day to Celebrate a 'Courageous Pursuit of Victory'

Rockville's 49th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will take place noon-1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18.

The celebration, with a theme of "In Courageous Pursuit of Victory," will be conducted online via Webex. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk) to learn how to join live. Those unable to join can view a recording on the webpage and on the city's YouTube channel in the days following the event.

Joyce Ladner will deliver a keynote address sharing her experiences as a civil rights activist and her pioneering study of race, gender and class. She will join a panel of educa-



**Joyce Ladner,**  
keynote speaker

tors, activists and advocates from Rockville, and members of the city's Human Rights Commission, the event's host.

The ceremony will include the presentation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award to a student who lives in, or attends school in, Rockville and has worked to fulfill King's dream, and the F. Michael Taff Award to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities. ✚

## Rockville Seeks Members for Community Policing Board

Community members are encouraged to apply to serve on the city's newly established Community Policing Advisory Board.

The board will provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council on how to support Rockville City Police Department programs, training, and professional development, and crime and safety initiatives. It will also meet with police to discuss issues as they

arise, in the interest of making improvements and finding solutions.

The city hosted a virtual meeting Oct. 22 in which 45 attendees from Rockville neighborhoods, advocacy and nonprofit organizations, and faith groups discussed the purpose, mission and vision for the board.

The Mayor and Council voted unanimously Nov. 16 to approve the board's mission "to enhance

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## Rockville Earns Top Score for LGBTQ Support for Fourth Year City Scores Perfect Marks — Plus Bonus Points — on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index

For a fourth consecutive year, Rockville has scored perfect marks on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for the city's commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

Rockville scored 110/100 on

the scorecard, netting 10 bonus points for its services to LGBTQ youth, homeless people, elders and members of the transgender community.

The ninth annual MEI scorecard, released Thursday, Dec. 3, analyzes and rates 506 municipalities across the country, mea-

*continued on pg. 2...*

## COVID-19: State is Recruiting Medical Workers

Montgomery County remains in the second of three reopening phases, with reopening guidelines limiting office use and encouraging telework.

With these guidelines in mind, the city is not able to welcome visitors back to City Hall or many city facilities, and no definitive date for reopening can be established at this time.

Information about the city's response to the pandemic is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Nextdoor), and on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).

Visit [mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates](http://mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates) to sign up for Rockville's email newsletter featuring city, state and county news about COVID-19.

For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000.

### State Needs Health Care Help

Gov. Larry Hogan recently announced the launch of MarylandMedNow, a program to recruit Marylanders with clinical backgrounds to work at state hospitals, nursing homes, testing sites, and vaccination clinics. Visit

[www.marylandmednow.com](http://www.marylandmednow.com).

### Food Distribution

Need assistance with food? Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food) for a list of food resources around the county and other important information. Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### Free COVID-19 Testing

Visit [MoCoCOVIDTesting.org](http://MoCoCOVIDTesting.org) or call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755 for more information about free testing, no appointment needed.

### Help a Neighbor in Need by Donating Online

If you would like to partner with the City of Rockville to help neighbors in need, consider donating at [bit.ly/donaterockville](http://bit.ly/donaterockville).

### Mayor's COVID Updates

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton delivers regular updates on Rockville's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the Rockville 11 YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville). ✚



**Protect yourself and others.  
Wear a mask.**

**#StopTheSpreadDMV**

## Ring in the New Year with Holiday Recycling

When the post-holiday cleanup begins, remember: Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights.

The city also collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station, 16105 Frederick Road. There they become mulch that is available year-round for free. After removing ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel, place trees at the curb for pickup on your recycling and trash collection

day. Trees should not be bagged. Artificial trees should be placed in the gray trash cart, or, if too large to fit in the cart, can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year. To make a bulk waste or electronics recycling collection appointment, call 240-314-8568.

The city does not recycle

*continued on pg. 3...*



## Check Once, Check Twice

State, county and city actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 mean uncertainty for activities, programs and facility hours in the City of Rockville. Please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

**New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1:** City government will be closed. Recycling and trash is not collected on Fridays. Collections will occur as usual this holiday week.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 18:** City government will be closed. Recycling and trash collections will occur one day later than usual throughout the week.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open to residents and facility members only, with limited services and activities on Dec. 31, will be closed Jan. 1 and open Jan. 18. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for details.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Jan. 1 and 18.

For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash) or call 240-314-8568.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-5000. ✚

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MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

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이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com)을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 "Select Language" (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.



## Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**  
240-314-8291  
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Monique Ashton**  
240-314-8293  
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg**  
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**Councilmember David Myles**  
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**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala**  
240-314-8292  
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE.** Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).

**Meeting Schedule: Mondays, Jan. 4, 11 and 25 at 7 p.m.** Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

The Jan. 11 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. Jan. 11 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227).

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

## Public Input Sought on Accessory Structures and Accessory Dwelling Units

The city will hold a series of virtual public input sessions, beginning in late January, to hear from the community on potential changes to regulations that govern residential accessory buildings in single-family neighborhoods.

City staff will be on hand to explain and answer questions about the proposed revisions ahead of a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for spring.

The public input sessions will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19; 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4.

The amendments to the city's zoning code under discussion would revise the regulations for accessory buildings and also allow the placement of accessory dwellings within accessory buildings. Under the proposal, an accessory apartment within the main house would also be allowed.

An **accessory building** is a detached structure in the rear yard, such as a shed or garage.

An **accessory apartment** is a small living unit, separate from but enclosed within the main house.

An **accessory dwelling unit** is a second, smaller dwelling on the same grounds as the main, single-family house but in an accessory building. Examples of these include an apartment over a garage or a smaller, separate structure (on a foundation) in the backyard.

For more details about the proposed revisions, including how to register for the virtual public input sessions, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/2345](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2345). ➕

## Mayor and Council to Hold Budget Hearing, Receive Utility Rate Structure Presentation

*FY22 Budget Survey Available*

The Mayor and Council continue their work on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in January with a public hearing and a presentation on proposed rates and rate structure for the city's water and sewer funds.

The city hired a consultant to develop a new utility rate structure, under which the Mayor and Council would set water and sewer rates based on property type, such as single-family, multifamily or nonresidential. If approved, the new structure and new rates would take effect in FY22, which begins July 1. For information about the current rate structure,

*continued on pg. 4...*

## FY 2020 Financial Reports Highlight Rockville's Finances

*Summaries Look at the City's Fiscal Health*

Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 7 give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2020, which closed June 30, the city ended "with a healthy overall net position of \$293.4 million," City Manager Rob DiSpirito wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), a summary document highlighting the city's finances. Net position is a useful indicator of a government's financial health and represents total assets minus total liabilities.

"Our FY 2020 financial position remained strong, despite some revenues coming in under budget as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to our rapid response to restrict all nonessential spending and institute a hiring freeze, the general fund reserve ended the year at \$22 million, which is \$5.1 million above the current reserve target," DiSpirito wrote.

The city maintains a triple-A bond rating. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

The city created the first PAFR in 2007 to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants.

The FY20 PAFR describes:

- The city government and services.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.
- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

The PAFR and CAFR are available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget). To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) and select the television icon next to the Dec. 7 meeting listing.

To learn more, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ➕



**The Maryland General Assembly begins Wednesday, Jan. 13. Find Rockville's state legislative priorities at [RockvilleReports.com/2021-state-priorities](http://RockvilleReports.com/2021-state-priorities).**

## Mayor and Council Initiate Annexation Discussion

The Mayor and Council are considering whether to annex an almost 10.3-acre plot of land at 16200 Frederick Road.

The annexation was initiated through a petition to the city by Victor, Inc., the property's owner, with a request to zone the area as mixed-use corridor district.

Annexation is the formal process of incorporating an area outside of the city's jurisdiction into its municipal boundaries. To be eligible, the property must be within the city's maximum expansion limits, as identified in the adopted Municipal Growth Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and adjacent to city limits.

The proposal must go through several steps before approval, including a review by and public hearing in front of the Planning Commission scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing before making a final decision. For more, see the Nov. 23 Mayor and Council meeting staff report at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). ➕

## Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

## Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: [www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx).

- **Jan. 13 and 27 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (May be held by teleconference. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) for details closer to the meeting dates.)

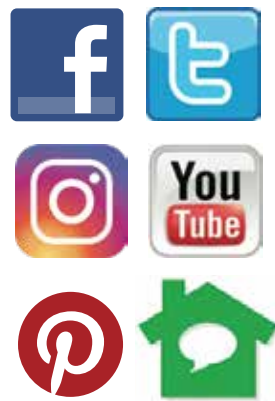
## Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (9)
- Financial Advisory Board (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (2 tenant alts.)
- Planning Comm. (2)
- Traffic and Transportation Comm. (1)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

## Connect with us on Social Media.



## ► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

**Call 1-866-921-6714**

Email [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca)  
Visit [www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd)  
For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:** Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



# It's Snow Time!: How to Be In-the-Know About Snow

## Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). Closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofrockville](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrockville)) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

City crews treat and plow roads in priority order. First are primary roads, including major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools. Next are secondary roads, including the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check if an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/maps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/maps).

This snow season, the city is urging patience and preparation on the part of residents. Operations and normal service times may be impacted due to precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic that include permitting only the driver, and no passengers,

in vehicles/plows, and entirely virtual storm operations meetings, with no in-person attendance. Crews will respond as quickly and safely as possible.

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or community association. Rockville requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas for public use within 24 hours after a snowfall of up to 3 inches, within 48 hours after a snowfall of 3-10 inches, and within 72 hours after a snowfall of more than 10 inches. If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants and storm drains. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Residents are encouraged to check on older neighbors who may need assistance clearing snow. See the article on this page about the city's volunteer snow shoveling for seniors. ❄️

NUMBERS TO KNOW	
Emergency .....	911
Report a Downed Tree to the City. ....	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works .....	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows .....	240-314-8567
Rockville City Police Dept. (non-emergency) .....	240-314-8900
Rockville Recreation Programs Cancellation Line ...	240-314-5023
Rockville City Hall .....	240-314-5000
Report a Power Outage or Downed Wire to Pepco . .	1-877-737-2662
Montgomery County Hypothermia Alerts (report safety concerns for people or pets) .....	301-279-8000

## Grants Available to Empower the Community

Community Empowerment Matching Grant applications are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 5.

Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations, community groups, organized groups of neighbors and student groups are eligible. Neighbors and organizations willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations and volunteer hours are also eligible.

Applications are reviewed and grants awarded by the City Manager's Office. Grants typically range from \$500-\$1,000 and must benefit a clearly identified area within city limits.

Grant funds will become available after Friday, March 5.

To see the objectives for matching grants, and for an application form and additional information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment). ❄️



## Civil War Trail Signs Being Updated

Two new interpretive signs have been installed at the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine and Beall-Dawson House, the first of several signs to be updated in Rockville that are part of the Civil War Trails, Inc., program.

Civil War Trails, Inc., has partnered with the City of Rockville, Peerless Rockville, Montgomery History and a private donor to renovate and update the signage. The museum and historic house are at 103 W. Montgomery Ave.

The Civil War Trails program, which includes Rockville, connects visitors to more than 1,200 sites across

six states. The program encourages visitors to stand in the footsteps of soldiers, citizens and those fighting for freedom. Tourism saves each Maryland household more than \$1,175 per year in taxes, according to the Maryland Department of Commerce Division of Marketing, Tourism, Film and the Arts.

Peerless Rockville, Montgomery History, and local historian Clarence Hickey helped develop new text for the signs and will assist in revisions to other Civil War Trails signs in the area.

Learn more about the Civil War Trails program at [www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org). ❄️

## Beating Stress, Winter Blues and Bad Joints: Virtual Classes in January at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay well with online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in January.

For details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation). Register online, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov) for more information. Sessions are free, unless otherwise noted, and take place from 1-2 p.m.

**Stress Reduction/ Meditation**

Learn the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion. Course #17371, Mondays, Jan. 11-March 29. \$24 members/\$40 nonmembers.

**Beating the Winter Blues**

Explore causes and discuss coping techniques for the effect of the winter season on mood and health. Course #17367. Tuesday, Jan. 12.

**Joint Mobility: Reduce Pain and Increase Function**

Tools and routines to release and strengthen joints. Course #17427. Tuesday, Jan. 19.

**Get Back into Action with Joint Replacement**

A detailed review of the latest advances in joint replacement, as well as treatment options for common hip and knee joint issues. Course #17547. Thursday, Jan. 28.

### Recycling in the New Year

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polystyrene (used for plates, clamshell containers, beverage cups and egg cartons, and often mistakenly called Styrofoam, a name trademarked by the Dow Chemical Co. for certain building materials), but collects it as part of regular trash collections.

The city also will not accept materials for recycling that are in plastic bags or that contain plastic bags. Many grocery or retail stores offer plastic bag collection bins

near their entrances. Find a drop-off location at [bit.ly/howtorecyclebags](http://bit.ly/howtorecyclebags).

Call 240-314-8568 or email [refuse@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:refuse@rockvillemd.gov) to schedule a special collection, start service, get a larger recycling cart, report a missed collection, verify collection schedules or ask a question.

For more information about how Rockville recycles, including printable holiday schedule calendars for your collection day, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash). ❄️

### Managed Deer Hunt to Close Civic Center Park in January

An area of Rockville Civic Center Park and Croydon Creek Nature Center will be closed for part of January for the final phase of a pilot archery deer-culling program.

John Hayes Memorial Forest (852 Avery Road) and surrounding parkland will be closed Jan. 9-16. The cull is intended to begin to bring the white-tailed deer population to a more sustainable level in concert with other measures.

For more info, and a map of the specific area affected, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/deerculling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/deerculling).

For more information about alternative parks to enjoy in Rockville, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/974/Parks](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/974/Parks).

### Volunteer to Shovel Snow for Older Neighbors

Each winter, the Rockville Senior Center looks for ways to help older Rockville residents with snow removal. If you're handy with a shovel and don't mind digging out an extra driveway or clearing a walkway or two, you can sign up and volunteer for the program.

To sign up to volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, email Jerry Jones at [jjones@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jjones@rockvillemd.gov), call him at 240-314-8819 or call the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810.

To sign up for assistance or volunteer, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/snowshoveling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/snowshoveling). For more info about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov).

### City Seeks Public Input on Short-Term Residential Rentals at Second Hearing

The Mayor and Council will hold a second public hearing virtually, Monday, Jan. 11, to gather input on whether to develop recommendations to regulate short-term residential rentals in Rockville.

A short-term rental is when a dwelling a unit, or part of a dwelling unit, is rented for a short period of time, usually fewer than 30 days. Most short-term residential rentals are coordinated through third-party companies such as Airbnb, Priceline and Expedia.

While short-term rentals take place in the city, no laws currently govern the practice.

At their Nov. 9 public hearing, the Mayor and Council requested a second hearing to collect the community's thoughts and opinions on residential short-term rentals prior to any recommendation for the development of regulations.

For more information, see the staff report in the Nov. 9 agenda at [bit.ly/SRT11920](http://bit.ly/SRT11920).

**VIRTUAL**  
*Lunar New Year Celebration*  
**Saturday, Feb. 20**  
Premieres at 11 a.m. at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville)

**Winter Special Edition**  
**Rockville Farmers Market**

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020  
Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021  
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021

Winter Hours: 9 a.m.-noon  
Location: Corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street.

GETTING THERE:  
Metro: Red Line  
Ride On: Bus 47 and 56  
Free parking available.

[www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers) 240-314-8620

**ALL ABOUT BATTERIES ...** Getting rid of old batteries of any size? Don't dispose of them in your trash or recycling cart, where they could start a fire. Instead, bring them to the household hazardous waste drop-off at the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station, 16105 Frederick Road. For batteries larger than 9 volts, including rechargeable batteries found in phones, laptops and power tools, cover the terminals with packing or duct tape and place them in a plastic bag or container, separate from batteries that don't require being taped. For retail locations that accept batteries for recycling, visit [bit.ly/BatteryDisposal](http://bit.ly/BatteryDisposal).



## A New Way to Pay Utility Bills A new payment system debuts in January

Check your mailbox in January for:

- ✓ New account information.
- ✓ How to register.

Then:

- View and pay your utility bill online, anytime, with a credit/debit card or e-check.
- Receive bills and receipts via email with a paperless option.
- Get email and optional text message reminders.
- Choose to pay online or by mail, phone or text message.
- Create your own payment schedule with FlexPay:
  - Use Auto Pay to avoid late or missed payments, or
  - One-Time Pay to quickly view and pay without registering.

It's safe, simple and secure.

[www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling)



## Multimedia Competition Focuses on Human Rights, Offers Up to \$2,500 in Scholarships

The city's Human Rights Commission will launch its Multimedia Scholarship Competition on Monday, Jan. 25.

This annual competition is an opportunity for students who live in and/or attend high school in Rockville to compete for scholarships by responding to one of several prompts focused on human rights.

The prompts, applications and additional information will be posted Monday, Jan. 25 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights). The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 29.

Students may choose their desired medium, e.g., an essay, poem, song, painting, etc., through which to respond to the prompts. Submissions will be judged by a panel of HRC members, a community leader and a high school faculty member. Judging will be based on creativity, work quality and relevance.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be announced at a Mayor and Council meeting and will be awarded up to \$2,500 in scholarships.

## 2020 on Rockville Social Media

These were some of the top-performing news items on city media channels in 2020:



**Twitter (@rockville411):** Top tweets included a traffic alert about demonstrations on June 5 in response to the police-related death of George Floyd in Minneapolis; a police alert about a coyote on the loose on Oct. 1; census takers on Aug. 25 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church; and a statue of Washington Senators pitcher Walter "Big Train" Johnson at Dogwood Park.



**Facebook (facebook.com/CityofRockville):** On June 4, Stacy Kaplowitz surprised her son Jonah with an arch of balloons to celebrate his seventh birthday and a city trash collection crew surprised them both by singing "Happy birthday!" as they made their rounds. Stacy shared the story with the city, and more than 6,000 views and 330 likes later, a lot of people had all the feels.



**Nextdoor.com:** "COVID-19 Testing Coming to Rockville": A sign of the times on July 24, as free county-administered COVID-19 testing clinics rolled out in Rockville.



**YouTube (youtube.com/cityofrockville):** Top Rockville II videos included coverage of the delivery of a care package to the Rockville Senior Center by 7-year-old anti-bullying activist Cavanaugh Bell, and one in a series of updates by Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton about the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**RockvilleReports.com:** On June 9, the city reported that "crews were flushing systems following a main supply line leak" that caused some city water users to experience discolored water and provided tips for clearing the water.



### Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.



## WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, fair mobility for all.

### Vision Zero is a strategy for a safer community.



Sets a goal of reducing, and eventually eliminating, traffic-related deaths or serious injuries.



Recognizes that people make mistakes and crashes will occur, but also that no one should lose their life or suffer life-altering injuries because of such mistakes.



Acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility and requires an approach to examine the whole system.



Recognizes that while transportation safety benefits everyone, some members of the community are more at risk for experiencing a serious crash.



Uses data to target the cause of crashes before they occur, in order to lessen the severity of injuries.

### How is Rockville committed to Vision Zero?

- The Mayor and Council adopted a Vision Zero Action Plan in July 2020. The plan includes 30 action items focusing on four key areas: engineering, enforcement, education and policy.
- City staff is conducting a crash analysis to determine the underlying causes of crashes in Rockville.
- The city appointed a Vision Zero coordinator and established an interdepartmental task force to oversee Vision Zero efforts.
- The city is coordinating closely with the state and Montgomery County to create a consistent approach to Vision Zero efforts.

### What can people do to get involved with Vision Zero?

- The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the Traffic and Transportation Commission meet regularly to discuss transportation safety issues, and welcome your participation.
- Read "Rockville Reports," watch Rockville II and follow the city on social media for opportunities to offer input on the Vision Zero Action Plan and the city's pedestrian master plan.
- If you see something that could immediately improve safety, let us know. Visit [rockvillemd.gov](http://rockvillemd.gov) to "Report a concern."
- Become an ambassador for safety by spreading the word about what Vision Zero is and how it can benefit the community.
- Let the city know of groups that the city should identify for outreach about Vision Zero and its mission.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero)

## FY22 Budget Process

*continued from pg. 2...*

see page 371 of the FY 2021 budget, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).

Also on the webpage, community members will find a budget survey, in English and Spanish, that allows them to identify their top budget priorities, initiatives for reducing the negative impacts of COVID-19, and options for maintaining a balanced budget. The Mayor and Council discussed their own FY22 budget priorities on Dec. 14.

The Mayor and Council's upcoming budget process includes:

- **Monday, Jan. 11:** Public hearing.

- **Monday, Jan. 25:** A presentation of proposed rates and rate structures for the water and sewer funds.
- **Monday, Feb. 22:** A presentation of the city manager's proposed FY 2022 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- Additional public hearings and work sessions will be held in 2021. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the budget in May.

For information about how to testify at the hearing, find the Jan. 11 agenda, posted the week before that meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. 🍀

## Community Policing Board

*continued from pg. 1...*

trust, respect, communication and collaboration between the community and the police department in order to increase knowledge, understanding, awareness and open dialogue, and to minimize systemic and individual biases."

A Dec. 7 vote officially created the board, which will be comprised of nine members who live in Rockville. The city is seeking diversity in members' ages, sex, gender, race, nationality, languages spoken and neighborhoods of residence. At least one board seat is reserved for a youth member, age 16-21. Initially, board members will serve

staggered terms, with four members serving three-year terms and four others serving two-year terms. The youth member will serve a one-year term. To apply, find an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/join-a-board-or-commission](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/join-a-board-or-commission).

The board will meet a minimum of eight times a year. The city hopes to convene the board's first meeting in mid-February, which could be held virtually, due to the pandemic.

For more information and video of the Mayor and Council discussions, find the Nov. 16 and Dec. 7 agendas at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). Learn more about the RCPD at [www.rockvillemd.gov/police](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police). 🍀



Get Into It

**City Manager:** Rob DiSpirito  
**Interim Deputy City Manager:** Tim Chesnutt  
**Director of Communication:** Marylou Berg  
**Public Information Specialists:** Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

**Web and Digital Manager:** Tatum B. Walker  
**Graphics and Printing:** Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler  
**Rockville II:** Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

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**CENTURIES OF CITY SERVICE ...** While we couldn't do it in person this year, the City of Rockville honored employees in December for milestones, including five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and even 40 years of service. Eighty-seven employees were honored, including 31 employees with 20 years or more service. The longest-serving employee honored was Debbie Prather, a permit technician in the Planning and Development Services Department, with 40 years.